

On a personal level, I had the honor of meeting Major Maynard's husband, who, as with all American military families, shares her selfless commitment to our country. I want to thank her husband, Brian, for the sacrifices he has made in supporting Tori's service to our country as well as his own as an Army Officer.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Major Maynard during the second session of the 117th Congress. Our country has benefited from her extraordinary leadership, judgment and passion for the Army profession. It is with great appreciation that I recognize and commend Major Maynard for her service to our country and wish her all the best as she continues her service in the United States Army.

**CELEBRATING BERKELEY HEIGHTS
POLICE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH
ANNIVERSARY**

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Berkeley Heights Police Department as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary this year.

The Berkeley Heights Police Department was established in 1924 with Chief Dominick Russo serving as the Township's first full-time police officer. A hundred years later, the department consists of 28 full-time officers and support staff committed to protecting the Berkeley Heights community and upholding the department's history and values. Their dedicated efforts have made Berkeley Heights one of New Jersey's most consistently safe municipalities.

I am proud that the 7th District is home to such committed individuals like the officers and staff of the Berkeley Heights Police Department. As the Police Department enters a new era in its history, I congratulate all who have helped it reach this notable milestone.

**HONORING FIVE LAFAYETTE PO-
LICE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS
FOR HEROIC ACTION IN THE
LINE OF DUTY**

HON. CLAY HIGGINS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor five members of the Lafayette Police Department (LPD) for heroic actions in the line of duty.

For their united display of valor, Corporal Adam Bradford, Corporal Maverick Morvant, Officer Hali Bradford, Officer Alan Cortez, and Officer Raynard Ford have earned their designation as 2024 recipients of the National Association of Police Organizations' "TOP COP" award.

In the early morning of August 5, 2023, LPD Officers Bradford, Cortez, and Ford responded to a "Disturbance in Progress" call. As they arrived on scene, the officers heard a woman cry for help from within the residence. While attempting entry, the perpetrator forced the

door shut. Officer Ford promptly breached the door, discovering a young woman and two children, who the officers quickly evacuated. The perpetrator, who had retreated deeper into the residence, reappeared and opened fire on the officers without warning. Officer Bradford was targeted by the perpetrator, incurring injuries that left her paralyzed from the waist-down. Officers Cortez and Ford immediately returned fire with their service weapons, striking the perpetrator multiple times. Meanwhile, Officer Cortez stepped forward to draw fire from Officer Bradford, sustaining gunshot wounds in the process.

While bleeding heavily and fighting to remain conscious, Officer Bradford dutifully withdrew from the line of fire, drew her service weapon, and communicated her condition to her colleagues. Still under fire, Officer Ford left cover and rushed to Officer Bradford's aid, dragging her further to safety. LPD Corporal Bradford and Corporal Morvant then arrived on scene, assuming aid of Officer Bradford. With a determination that she could not wait for an ambulance, they placed Officer Bradford in a service vehicle. As Corporal Morvant drove, Corporal Bradford administered first aid. They reached a nearby hospital in just three minutes, where she underwent lifesaving surgery.

This lifesaving outcome, despite extraordinarily adverse circumstances, is a credit to the heroism, professionalism, and teamwork of these five police officers. Scripture tells us, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Without hesitation, these officers demonstrated such a commitment, in defense of our community and one other. This is emblematic of the very finest of the Thin Blue Line.

On behalf of Louisiana's 3rd District, I ask the blessings of our Lord upon Corporal Bradford, Corporal Morvant, Officer Bradford, Officer Cortez, and Officer Ford for their service and sacrifice. God bless them one and all.

**HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE USS HORNET SEA,
AIR & SPACE MUSEUM**

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the USS *Hornet* Sea, Air & Space Museum in Alameda, California. The USS *Hornet* is an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum, education, and research complex, dedicated to the increase and diffusion of knowledge.

The museum is housed in the aircraft carrier USS *Hornet*, CV-12 which was part of the U.S. Navy's offensive force in the Pacific theater during World War II. Along with the anniversary of the museum, we are also celebrating the 80th anniversary of the commissioning of this historic ship. The USS *Hornet* saw fierce action during World War II, as well as serving in the Korean and Vietnam wars. The ship was decommissioned in 1970 and turned into a museum, which first opened in 1998.

The ship is moored permanently at the former Alameda Naval Air Station in Alameda,

California, overlooking the San Francisco Bay. Visitors can see how the crew ate, lived, slept, and worked during their time aboard the ship.

Visitors can explore the flight deck, hangar deck, and first deck on self-guided tours. Documented tours take visitors to the ship's navigation and flight deck control areas, as well as into engineering spaces that hold two of the four ship's propulsion turbines.

In addition to the historic ship itself, there are vintage military aircraft on display, including exhibits from NASA's Apollo missions 11 and 12. The *Hornet* served as the primary recovery ship for Apollo 11, picking up astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins upon their return from the moon following their splashdown in the Pacific Ocean. The Apollo Block 1 Command Module is on a special loan from Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum.

The *Hornet* also has a STEM to Stern Program, where students can learn how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics apply to the operational functions of a World War II aircraft carrier. This program offers a perspective on modern technology by offering a comparison to the past.

On June 1, 2017, the Smithsonian Institution added the USS *Hornet* Sea, Air & Space Museum as an affiliate. This allowed the *Hornet* to share objects for display and work together to enhance the experience of museumgoers.

The USS *Hornet* Museum is now one of 216 organizations in 46 states, as well as Puerto Rico and Panama, that are part of the Smithsonian's affiliate program. The affiliate program will allow the *Hornet* to share objects for display, facilitate co-branding, and professional development of staff.

Please join me as I recognize the 25th anniversary of this beloved museum, as well as the staff and volunteers who serve on it. This Veteran's Day, the USS *Hornet* Sea, Air & Space Museum will open its doors to members of the community for free in honor of the occasion. Its collections, exhibitions, and educational programming will promote awareness and understanding of history, science, technology, and service as a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTIE WILLIAMS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the unique contributions of one of my constituents, Christie Williams, who serves as a volunteer Board Member for the local non-profit, Brooksville Main Street. These outstanding volunteers put in hundreds of hours while running their businesses and organizations. They have all come together for a common cause—to serve the community by bringing much-loved events to downtown Brooksville. Each of these board members have servant hearts, and their dedication and commitment to our community is impressive. Part of what makes our country so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to go above and beyond to selflessly give back to others. Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of our society and part of the fabric that unites us.

It is clear that Ms. Williams and her fellow board members have made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service.

RECOGNIZING KYRII PETRALIA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kyrii Petralia for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Kyrii has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Kyrii, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Kyrii's hard work, determination, and perseverance at The Manning School of Academics and Arts and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Kyrii Petralia on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE NEW HAVEN ORATORIO CHOIR ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the members and supporters of the New Haven Oratorio Choir as they mark the 60th Anniversary of this exceptional organization.

The New Haven Oratorio Choir is a community-based, auditioned chamber choir whose mission is to provide the New Haven region with unique and intimate choral performances, a repertoire chosen to inspire and inform performers and audiences alike. Indeed, the celebration of their 60th Anniversary includes an upcoming performance entitled "Blossoms, Beasts, and Birds: Songs About Nature" which will feature selections from renowned composers such as Britten, Copland, Whitacre, Gibbons, Price, and others.

The choir was founded in 1963 when Allen Wolbrink, the then music director of the Church of the Redeemer, wanted to expand its Senior Choir. He did so by inviting singers from the larger community to join with the goal of performing larger works. At the time, the New Haven Chorale was the only area chorus open to all singers and with a membership of over one hundred, it did not offer the more spiritual experience Mr. Wolbrink envisioned. Originally named the Redeemer Oratorio Choir, over the course of its history, choir members have come from Greater New Haven and all over the world, all finding a community of belonging while they lived, went to school, or worked in the area. In fact, former members still reflect on the feeling of community they still have when remembering their time with the choir.

In 1990, the choir was officially incorporated as the New Haven Oratorio Choir and when the Church of the Redeemer closed, they found a new home just down the road at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Today, the New Haven Oratorio Choir carries on the legacy of its founder, performing two concerts a year, each with a unique focus.

Over its sixty-year history, there have been changes in performers, musical directors, and even their home base, but two features at the heart of the organization remain its foundation—a commitment to sacred music and an openness to all members of the community. As they celebrate this remarkable milestone, I am honored to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the New Haven Oratorio Choir and wish them all the best for many more successful years to come. As we say in Italian, "C'ent Anni!"

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GAINESVILLE, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the First Christian Church of Gainesville, Texas as it celebrates the 150th Anniversary of its founding. I'm pleased to congratulate the congregation on this significant milestone. With its long and storied history in Cooke County, it is truly an honor to join the congregation in recognition of the longevity of First Christian Church.

The church had a presence in Gainesville for several years before its members officially organized as a congregation, meeting first in a local schoolhouse then at the Cooke County Courthouse. The congregation officially organized as the Dixon Street Christian Church on Sunday May 10, 1874, with thirteen original members. Those charter members were Mr. and Mrs. John Darnell, Mollie Lee, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Barrett, Brother Hill and Aunt Nancy Hill, Mrs. Jennie Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. John Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Matthews and Mrs. B.F. Carpenter. Church records are unclear as to who served as the church's first minister. One account lists Dr. Thomas C. Barrett as the first minister, serving from 1874 to 1878. A different source identifies Rev. A.J. Farthing as the first minister, followed by Dr. Barrett.

Mr. Rufus F. Scott, a pioneer Gainesville businessman, donated a lot on North Dixon Street to the congregation. Mr. J.Z. Keel, a schoolteacher, came to Gainesville and donated \$7,000 for the church to build a building. During the week, the building was utilized by Mr. Keel as a schoolhouse and by the church for worship on Sundays. First Christian Church has continuously existed at this location ever since.

Rev. A.J. Bush, serving as minister, brought an organ for use during services, which caused a split in the congregation between 1884 through 1886. This schism reflected the wider disagreement over the use of musical instruments in the church going on nationally in the Stone-Campbell movement.

The church has had several buildings over the years and was known as the Christian

Church, the M.E. Church and the First Christian Church. The "First Christian Church" name was officially adopted in 1950. A clapboard church building was erected in 1878 and used by the congregation until it was donated to the Bethel AME Church in 1892 and moved to Cummins Street. A bigger building was constructed in 1892 and used until 1926. A brick edifice was erected in 1927 and used as a sanctuary until 1956 before being converted for use as a classroom wing and a Fellowship Hall until 1993. The current sanctuary building was erected in 1956 and continues to serve the congregation. The new Pauline Roberts Fellowship Hall and classroom wing was added to the property in 1993 along with a Christian Life Center in 2004. Both facilities are still in use by the congregation.

The current congregation of 125 members continues to serve Gainesville and Cooke County with multiple outreach ministries including Coats for Kids, Backpack Buddies, SoulFood, Stanford House Activity Center for Active Seniors, VISTO and Care Corp. I join the members and all those who have had the privilege of being involved with First Christian Church in wishing them a happy anniversary and many more years of ministry and service to the community.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM WEST

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William West for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

William has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like William, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to William's hard work, determination, and perseverance at The Manning School of Academics and Arts and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate William West on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING KEITH CARSON, SUPERVISOR FOR ALAMEDA COUNTY'S 5TH DISTRICT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Supervisor Keith Carson, who has represented the 5th District on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors since 1992. Supervisor Carson has been a fearless leader in Alameda County, fighting for access to health care, improving business retention, addressing the scarcity of jobs in our communities, and ending poverty and homelessness. He approaches his role as Supervisor with the goal of creating a more inclusive and accessible government for the people of Alameda County.